

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ART. XIII.—*Special Anatomy and Histology.* By WILLIAM E. HORNER, M. D., &c., in two volumes—Sixth Edition. Philadelphia, 1843.

ANOTHER edition of this standard work of Professor Horner has made its appearance, to which many additions have been made, and upon which much labour has been bestowed by its author. The additions are chiefly in the department of Histology or elementary anatomy, and so important are they, that the Professor has added the term to the title of his work.

Under the head of the chemical constituents of the body, are enumerated the various newly discovered compound organic radicals and their combinations, as for instance, proteine, albumen, caseine, fibrine, pepsine, globuline, &c., a short account of the properties of each being given.

The chapter on Histogeny, or the origin and growth of elementary organisms, contains a full account of the origin and formation of tissues by means of cell-germs, nuclei and nucleated cells, as well as a description of the elementary parts which make up the body of animals, as chondrine, pyine, hematine, &c.

Before commencing the special description of any particular tissue, the Professor gives a chapter on its general anatomy. This part of the work has received the greatest attention, and much of it may be said to be re-written; the late discoveries by the microscope rendering such a measure necessary.

There are some parts of the work in which a strong disposition is manifested to adhere to the old descriptions, *not* however, to the exclusion of the later and more perfect views of the part described. For instance, the rete mucosum is still described as possessing four layers, viz. 1. the bloody pimples; 2. the tunica albidula profunda; 3. the gemmula; and 4. the tunica albidula superficialis;—which have been studied chiefly by means of examinations of the skin in diseased conditions, as for instance in the small-pox pustule, rendering it probable *at least* that they are the results of diseased action, and not the true structure of the part in a normal state. Professor H., however, adds a brief account of the more recent researches of Messrs. Brechet and de Vauzeme, upon which, however, he seems to place but little reliance.

In describing the filaments which may be seen in the interval between the two tissues, on separating the cuticle from the cutis-vera after maceration, we perceive that the explanation given in a former edition is still adhered to, although they are readily seen to be due to an elongation of the *papillæ tactus* of the derm in consequence of an adhesion between their tips and the cuticle. When pulled entirely apart, their tips break off, and adhering to the cuticular portion form what Gaultier calls the layer of bloody pimples.

The chapter on the general anatomy of the muscular system is full and complete, and gives an excellent view of the present state of our knowledge on the subject.

The account of the minute anatomy of the mucous membrane has claimed a very large share of the author's attention, and it is a subject which he has deeply studied and most splendidly illustrated by a series of minute injections, which are placed in the Wistar Museum.

His account of the mucous membrane appeared in this journal in advance of the researches of Sprott Boyd, but seems, as usual, to have excited but little attention from our transatlantic brethren. His estimate of the number of follicles, which we are confident is *within* the mark, will go far to make the student understand how the slight affections of the mucous membrane so readily and so rapidly affect the general system. The calculation (p. 51, vol. 2) gives to the

stomach 1,296,000, and to the colon 9,620,000. The whole number of follicles in the alimentary canal being estimated at plus 46,900,000.

The researches of the author led him some time since to adopt a description of the structure of the lung which differed widely from that of any previous anatomist, although he says, vol. 2, p. 161, that it "may be traced as far back as Helvetius and Duverney, and has as its advocates, Haller, Sæmmering, J. F. Meckel and Cruveilhier."

Every part of this edition seems to have undergone the most careful revision, and its readers may rest assured of having the science of human anatomy fully brought up to the present day, in these volumes.

An additional advantage is promised in an accompanying atlas of illustrations, without which no work on demonstrative science ought to appear, and it would be much better to have them on the same page as the description. P. B. G.

ART. XIV.—*The Dispensatory of the United States of America.* By GEORGE B. WOOD, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Pennsylvania, &c., and FRANKLIN BACHE, M. D., Professor of Chemistry in Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, &c. Fifth edition, enlarged and carefully revised. 1 vol. 8vo., pp. 1368. Grigg & Elliot, 1813.

During the ten years that have elapsed since the first edition of this work, the exceeding high estimation in which it is held by the medical and pharmaceutical public, has been evinced by the constant demand for it, and the rapid disposal it has met with.

Previous to its appearance, the state of pharmacological knowledge in this country was so impoverished and barren, in consequence of the paucity and meagreness of systematic treatises, which were far behind the age, not only with respect to scientific details, but really important practical discoveries, that at the time of its publication, the *United States Dispensatory* might almost be regarded in the light of a revelation, and in conjunction with the valuable auxiliaries, periodical, and others which have since been associated with it, it has contributed to dispel the ignorance, apathy, and indifference that depressed one of the most extensive and necessary departments of medical science. To institute, however, a comparison between the condition of American pharmacology during two distinctly marked eras that have been under our immediate observation, would be an extended occupation; we wish only to refer to such epochs connected with its history, in noticing a work which is inseparable from the agencies that gave rise to reformation, and which has largely conduced to awaken a taste for the cultivation of the materia medica, and to demonstrate its capabilities. The indefatigable authors have laboured assiduously in the field to which they have devoted themselves; and it will be admitted, that it is no disparagement to other meritorious individuals, to assert, that they have done more than a mere share to render fertile the waste and unproductive places.

In each succeeding edition of the *Dispensatory*, the work has been rendered a full compendium of the existing information; improvements and alterations have been introduced, and a jealous vigilance has been exercised with respect to additions and discoveries in science at home and abroad; but it is stated in the preface to this, the fifth edition, that "on no revision have the authors bestowed so much labour as on the present," and the following reasons have been given: The new editions of the *United States* and *Edinburgh Pharmacopœias* required comment; and the recent pharmacological treatises of Dr. Pereira and Dr. Christison, containing much original observation, and the *Medical Flora* of Dr. Lindley, not to speak of other valuable works in different departments of materia medica and pharmacy, afforded a great mass of new materials for selection and arrangement. The periodical press has also presented much that demanded notice, and the changes in the commerce in drugs, and the various modifications in pharmaceutical operations, resulting from increased experience and the ad-